

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A map displaying apparatus that obtains map data including curved-point coordinate information and name information of a traffic route for displaying the traffic route, which is transmitted from a map-data distributing server via a network, and displays a map based on the obtained map data on a display screen, the map displaying apparatus comprising:

a display-area determining unit that determines a display area in which the map is to be displayed;

an obtaining unit that obtains, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined by the display-area determining unit; and

a map-display-data generating unit that determines a display position of each character or symbol included in a character/symbol string in the name information so that the character or the symbol is positioned along the traffic route without interfering with another character or symbol, and generates map display data for displaying the character or the symbol at the determined display position, and when the character or symbol is rotated and displayed, a judgment-purpose pixel range that is larger than a pixel range for displaying any single character or symbol is employed to judge whether the character or symbol interferes with another character or symbol as a result of the rotation.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The map displaying apparatus according to claim 11, wherein when a display angle of the character or the symbol is rotatable, the map-display-data generating unit determines the display angle of the character or the symbol so that the character or the symbol is positioned along the traffic route, and generates the map display data so that the character or the symbol is sequentially displayed from left to right on the display screen.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The map displaying apparatus according to claim 11, wherein when a display angle of the character or the symbol is not rotatable, the map-display-data generating unit determines a direction in which the character or the symbol is to be displayed sequentially on the display screen, based on an inclination angle of the traffic route with respect to a predetermined direction of the display screen, and generates the map display data for sequentially displaying the character/symbol string in the determined direction.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The map displaying apparatus according to claim 13, wherein when the display angle of the character or the symbol is not rotatable, the map-display-data generating unit generates the map display data for displaying the character or the symbol from left to right if the inclination angle of the traffic route with respect to a horizontal direction of the display screen is smaller than a predetermined angle, and for displaying the character or the symbol from top to bottom if the inclination angle is equal to or larger than the predetermined angle.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The map displaying apparatus according to claim 11, wherein upon judging whether the character or the symbol interferes with the other

character or symbol, the map-display-data generating unit uses a judgment character pixel range that is larger than a pixel range for displaying a single character or a single symbol, and judges whether the pixel range of the other character interferes with the judgment character pixel range.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A map displaying apparatus that obtains map data including curved-point coordinate information and name information of a traffic route for displaying the traffic route individually, which is transmitted from a map-data distributing server via a network, and displays a map based on the obtained map data on a display screen, the map displaying apparatus comprising:

a display-area determining unit that determines a display area in which the map is to be displayed;

an obtaining unit that obtains, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined by the display-area determining unit; and

a map-display-data generating unit that generates map display data for displaying a character/symbol string in the name information along the traffic route, wherein before generating the map display data, the map-display-data generating unit judges whether the map display data for displaying the character/symbol string in the display area determined by the display-area determining unit is generated, and if the map display data is generated, the map-display-data generating unit does not generate the map display data, and when the character or symbol is rotated and displayed, a judgment-purpose pixel range that is larger than a pixel range for displaying any single character or symbol is employed to judge whether the character or symbol interferes with another character or symbol as a result of the rotation.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method of obtaining map data including curved-point coordinate information and name information of a traffic route for displaying the traffic route individually, which is transmitted from a map-data distributing server via a network, and displaying a map based on the obtained map data on a display screen, the method comprising:

determining a display area in which the map is to be displayed;

obtaining, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined at the determining; and

generating including

determining a display position of each character or symbol included in a character/symbol string in the name information so that the character or the symbol is positioned along the traffic route without interfering with other character or symbol, and

generating map display data for displaying the character or the symbol at the determined display position, including judging, when the character or symbol is rotated and displayed, using a judgment-purpose pixel range that is larger than a pixel range for displaying any single character or symbol, whether the character or symbol interferes with another character or symbol as a result of the of rotation.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method of obtaining map data including curved-point coordinate information and name information of a traffic route for displaying the traffic route individually, which is transmitted from a map-data distributing server via a network, and displaying a map based on the obtained map data on a display screen, comprising:

determining a display area in which the map is to be displayed;

obtaining, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined at the determining; and

generating map display data for displaying a character/symbol string in the name information along the traffic route, wherein before generating the map display data, the generating includes judging whether the map display data for displaying the character/symbol string in the display area determined at the determining is generated, and not generating the map display data if the map display data is generated, and judging, when the character or symbol is rotated and displayed, using a judgment-purpose pixel range that is larger than a pixel range for displaying any single character or symbol, whether the character or symbol interferes with another character or symbol as a result of the rotation.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium including computer executable instructions ~~that stores a map displaying program~~ for obtaining map data including curved-point coordinate information and name information of a traffic route for displaying the traffic route individually, which is transmitted from a map-data distributing server via a network, and displaying a map based on the obtained map data on a display screen, wherein the ~~map displaying program causes a computer to execute~~ instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method comprising:

determining a display area in which the map is to be displayed;

obtaining, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined at the determining; and

generating including

determining a display position of each character or symbol included in a character/symbol string in the name information so that the character or the symbol is positioned along the traffic route without interfering with other character or symbol; and

generating map display data for displaying the character or the symbol at the determined display position, including judging, when the character or symbol is rotated and displayed, using a judgment-purpose pixel range that is larger than a pixel range for displaying any single character or symbol, whether the character or symbol interferes with another character or symbol as a result of the of rotation.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium including computer executable instructions ~~that stores a map displaying program~~ for obtaining map data including curved-point coordinate information and name information of a traffic route for displaying the traffic route individually, which is transmitted from a map-data distributing server via a network, and displaying a map based on the obtained map data on a display screen, wherein the ~~map displaying program causes a computer to execute~~ instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method comprising:

determining a display area in which the map is to be displayed;

obtaining, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined at the determining; and

generating map display data for displaying a character/symbol string in the name information along the traffic route, wherein before generating the map display data, the generating includes judging whether the map display data for displaying the character/symbol string in the display area determined at the determining is generated, and not generating the

map display data if the map display data is generated, and judging, when the character or symbol is rotated and displayed, using a judgment-purpose pixel range that is larger than a pixel range for displaying any single character or symbol, whether the character or symbol interferes with another character or symbol as a result of the rotation.